

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 remain in the application with claims 1-3 and 5-6 having been amended hereby. Claims 1, 5, and 8 are in independent form.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,731,630 to Schuster et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,788,769 to Waites.

Independent claim 1, as amended, relates to a communication system for exchanging electronic mail information in accordance with an electronic mail address formed of a telephone number of a destination and a domain name of a destination telecommunication services operator. The system comprising a plurality of communication devices for inputting the telephone number of the destination and an identification number of the destination telecommunication services operator and for communicating to the destination the electronic mail information using the electronic mail address. A storage device stores a reference table in which the input identification number of the destination telecommunication services operator is correlated with the domain name of the destination telecommunication services operator. A communication management device uses the input identification number of the destination telecommunication services operator as

an address for reading the domain name of the destination telecommunication services operator from the reference table and merges the input telephone number with the domain name read from the reference table to form the electronic mail address for sending the electronic mail information.

Schuster et al. relates to dialing a VoIP telephone to contact at a VoIP telephone having a telephone address of the form [person]@[domain]. For example, "Tom@company.com." In Schuster et al., rather than dialing the complete alphanumeric address, a number may be dialed. The number to be dialed is a numerical equivalent mapping of the alphanumeric address.

The numerical equivalent is then queried from "a database server, such as the first connection server 110 or the second connection server 114. A DNS (Domain Name Server) may alternatively be queried." (see col. 18, second paragraph). Schuster et al. notes that the telephone address of the form [person]@[domain] resembles an email address.

Waites relates to the use of a telephone number as the primary component of, among other things, an email address. For example, a person with a telephone number of (512) 123-4567, would have an email address of "1234567@us512.net" (see example on col. 6, second full paragraph).

The cited art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or

suggest a communication management device using the input identification number of the destination telecommunication services operator as an address for reading the domain name of the destination telecommunication services operator from the reference table and merges the input telephone number with the domain name read from the reference table to form the electronic mail address for sending the electronic mail information.

This is because in Schuster et al., the first part of the input identification number is not a telephone number and in Waites, the second part of the email address is not a domain name of the destination telecommunication services operator.

The Examiner suggests that the fact that a telephone number may be used as the first part of an email address in Waites may be combined with the fact that a numerical equivalent may be used in place of a domain in Schuster et al. to render claim 1 obvious. The Examiner further suggests that the motivation to combine may be found in Schuster et al. because Schuster et al. notes that the telephone address of the form [person]@[domain] resembles an email address.

However, Schuster et al. fails to render claim 1 obvious because Schuster et al. relates to placing a VoIP telephone call and not to sending an email. Moreover, the fact that Schuster et al. notes that a VoIP telephone number may resemble an email

address is not an assertion that the method of Schuster et al. can be successfully adapted to the sending of emails, for example, as described in Waites, this fact is stated merely to describe the SIP URI in a more familiar context.

Because the primary reference Schuster et al. fails to provide motivation to combine itself with Waites, the rejection of independent claim 1 of Schuster et al. in view of Waites is improper.

Claims 2-10 are patentable over the cited art for at least similar reasons.

Therefore, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Communication System, Communication Device and Communication Method, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the cited references.

The references cited as of interest have been reviewed and are not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

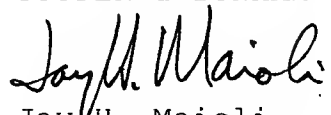
Entry of this amendment is earnestly solicited, and it is respectfully submitted that the amendments made to the claims hereby raise no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search, because all of the features of this invention have

clearly been considered by the examiner in the prosecution of this application and because the present amendments serve only to further define and emphasize the novel features of this invention.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27, 213

JHM/JBG